

years Tyler has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Tyler Don Guess for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

COMMENDING THE LEADERSHIP TRAINING INSTITUTE OF AMERICA

HON. JOHN BOOZMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2007

Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam Speaker, I wish to recognize and commend the outstanding contributions of the Leadership Training Institute of America toward the development of the young leaders of America.

The Leadership Institute of America is an educational organization providing training and opportunity in leadership development and cultural dynamics. This organization's mission is to identify, inspire, and instruct students for leadership in society by equipping them with skills to allow them to defend their beliefs, including and understanding of why traditional values are vital to a free and secure society. It is these values that have, and continue, to make America great.

LTIA students receive exposure to the major world views, issues, and philosophies of today. They are encouraged to pursue careers in influential sectors of our society by applying the leadership, critical thinking, scientific, and historic training they receive at LTIA, which is grounded in the Biblical traditions of America's forefathers.

LTIA students represent future leaders in government, education, media, and business. They will be the backbone of our Nation and vital in sustaining its position as a world leader.

With great pride, I salute the Leadership Training Institute of America for its unrelenting dedication and commitment in training and equipping young leaders for the challenges they will face tomorrow in our dynamic and ever changing world.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2007

Mr. KIND. Madam Speaker, on Monday, June 25, 2007, I was detained in my district due to a canceled airline flight and was unable to have my votes recorded on the House floor for H. Res. 189 (Roll no. 549) and H.R. 2546 (Roll no. 550). Had I been present, I would have voted in favor of both measures.

TRIBUTE TO VANESSA BROWN

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2007

Mr. CROWLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the great accomplish-

ment of one of my constituents, Vanessa Brown of Co-Op City, the Bronx. I wish to recognize Ms. Brown for her outstanding achievement in being selected the district winner in the 26th Annual Congressional Art Competition for her inspiring and uplifting piece entitled "A New Starry Night."

Ms. Brown is currently a high school junior attending Lehman High School in the Bronx. She has demonstrated a commitment to pursuing her gift and to further developing her abilities, making her a deserving recipient of this honor. I am proud that this year my district is well-represented in this competition by Ms. Brown's work and I look forward to viewing it in these halls for the months to come.

Each year, Congress affords our Nation's most talented and budding artists the opportunity to have their work displayed in the Cannon Tunnel leading to the U.S. Capitol. This beautiful display is experienced daily by Members of Congress, their staff, our country's residents, and welcomed visitors from all around the world who are awarded the privilege of witnessing our young people's artistic endeavors and talents.

Madam Speaker, I salute the authentic, creative voice of Ms. Brown and I wish her continued success and all the very best in the future.

SUPPORT FUNDING FOR THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2007

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of funding for the National Endowment for the Arts. Grants funding from the NEA reaches people of all races, classes and geographic areas.

I have been personally involved with Childsplay in Arizona for many years and have seen first-hand the impact the arts can have on the community and good work the NEA performs. Through NEA grants, the arts are shared with those at all income levels and in all communities.

I remember specifically the impact one Childsplay production had on the children who attended. Eric and Elliott, a play that received \$23,000 in grant money from the NEA, dealt with teen depression and suicide. This play about hope shared the tools to recognize and cope with depression. It inspired young people to come forward to seek help.

Since its inception, Eric and Elliott has formed a unique partnership with the Mental Health Association of Arizona and a counselor now travels with the production to provide on-site counseling services to young people. The play earned the "Distinguished Play Award 2006" from the American Alliance for Theatre and Education.

This is just one example of many in which arts and arts education deeply impacts young people and adults.

Also, and importantly, where the Federal Government invests, the private sector and community follow. NEA funding from the Federal Government encourages the private sector and local communities to invest in arts organizations and signals that the arts are a worthy investment.

Millions of people have benefited greatly from NEA-funded programs over the last 40 years and I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting increased funding for this important organization.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JULIA CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2007

Ms. CARSON. Madam Speaker, on Monday, June 25, 2007, I was unable to vote on rollcall Nos. 549 and 550. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on these bills.

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL BILL GORDON

HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2007

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Retired Army Col. Bill Gordon of Fort Collins, Colorado.

Later today Colonel Gordon will receive the National Order of the Legion of Honor from the Government of France in recognition of his distinguished record of military service in France during World War II. The Legion of Honor is the highest honor conferred upon French citizens and foreign nationals by the French Government.

After playing on UCLA's first football team to compete in the Rose Bowl, Bill Gordon was commissioned through UCLA's Army ROTC Program in 1943. Following the 1944 D-Day invasion, Lieutenant Gordon was assigned as a replacement platoon leader in B Company of the 82nd Airborne Division's 507th Regiment.

In December 1944, the 507th was assigned to an area along the Meuse River just east of Nouzonville, France, to meet the onslaught of a German surprise attack in the Ardennes. After the Battle of the Bulge, Lieutenant Gordon was seriously injured during a parachute jump near the important German industrial City of Essen.

After the war Lieutenant Gordon was placed on reserve status in 1946, but was reappointed to the regular Army in 1949. Over the course of his 30-year career in the Army, Colonel Gordon served in both Korea and Vietnam. Among his many decorations are the Distinguished Service Medal, two Silver Stars, the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star with V, two Purple Hearts, 14 Air Medals with V, and the Defense Meritorious Service Medal.

Following his distinguished military career, Colonel Gordon and his family settled in Fort Collins, Colorado, where he served as Director of the Larimer County Emergency Management System and as Larimer County Administrator.

The sacrifices he made to ensure the liberty and freedom of future generations will never be forgotten.

Madam Speaker, like so many other young members of this Greatest Generation, Colonel Gordon set aside his ambitions and risked his life to ensure the continued freedom of our great nation. I am both humbled by his selflessness and incredibly proud of his heroic patriotism. As he receives recognition today from